

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 00670 301546Z

21

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 XMB-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /135 W
----- 106329

R 301416Z JAN 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1083

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: EC/US TECHNICAL DISCUSSION ON TARIFFS

REF: STATE 014197

1. WE MET JAN 29 WITH EC (DUGIMONT AND OTHERS) IN SECOND
ROUND OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RAISED
AT LAST MEETING (SEE MTN GENEVA 9447) AND TO CLARIFY DATA
USED IN THE EC TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE.

A. EXCHANGE OF DATA. WE GAVE EC ONE COPY OF US
DRAFT CONSOLIDATED GATT SCHEDULE XX WHILE EMPHASIZING
THAT DOCUMENT DOES NOT SATISFACTORILY COPE WITH SEVERAL
PROBLEM ITEMS AND IS INTENDED ONLY FOR INTERNAL USE BY
THE EC DELEGATION. THE EC AGREED TO SUPPLY US WITH THE
DRAFT CONSOLIDATED EC GATT SCHEDULE ON THE SAME
INFORMAL BASIS. WE ALSO EXCHANGED 1976 TARIFF SCHEDULES
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 00670 301546Z

AND AGREED TO EXCHANGE COMPUTER TAPES AND MICROFISCHE

COPIES OF THE TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE. WE PROMISED TO GIVE THEM JANUARY 1974 TSUSA-BTN CONCORDANCE WHEN RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON.

B. TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE (TRIF) - GENERAL. IN ADDITION TO ANSWERING EC TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ON U.S. TRIF ALONG LINES OF REFTTEL, WE ALSO DISCUSSED FUTURE USE THAT MIGHT BE MADE OF TRIF. DUGIMONT INDICATED THAT THE EC IS INTERESTED IN MAKING FURTHER USE OF THE TRIF IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE EC INTENDS TO UPDATE ITS TRIF TO 1975 AND TO ADD AVE'S FOR ADDITIONAL YEARS (AT PRESENT THE EC FILE INCLUDES AVE'S ONLY FOR 1972). DUGIMONT SAID THE EC IS EXAMINING WAYS THAT THE TRIF INFORMATION COULD BE MADE MORE USEFUL. ONE WAY IS TO ADD TRIF TO THE GIM-II COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH THIS INVOLVES SUBSTANTIAL TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. THE EC HOPES TO LOOK INTO THIS POSSIBILITY IN MORE DETAIL DURING THE TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSE FOR GIM-II SCHEDULED FOR LAT FEBRUARY. DUGIMONT THOUGHT THAT, AT THE LEAST, LINKS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE TARIFF INFORMATION ON THE TRIF AND THE INFORMATION ON TRADE FLOWS AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE. IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED THAT THE EC TRIF CONTAINS A CODE LINKING THE TARIFF INFORMATION TO EC TRADE STATISTICS. WE NOTED THAT US TRADE INFORMATION IS ALREADY REPORTED ON A TARIFF LINE BASIS.

DUGIMONT ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE EC IS TAKING A LINE WITH THE JAPANESE SIMILAR TO THAT TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES, IN INSISTING THAT JAPAN PROVIDE DESCRIPTIONS FOR TARIFF ITEMS IN JAPAN TRIF BEFORE EC WILL AGREE TO AN EXCHANGE OF TRIF FILES.

C. TRIF - TECHNICAL. EC TRIF CONFORMS CLOSELY TO SPECIFICATIONS DESCRIBED IN GATT DOCUMENT MTN/3A/W/11 WITH EXCEPTION THAT EC FILE CONTAINS ADDED CODE LINKING TRIF TO EC TRADE STATISTICS AND THAT IT PRESENTLY CONTAINS AVE'S CALCULATED ONLY FOR 1972. AVE'S ARE BASED ON 1972 UNIT VALUE AS CALCULATED FROM EC TRADE STATISTICS. VALUES ARE BASED ON EUR'S AND EC WILL SUPPLY CONVERSION FACTORS BETWEEN EUR AND NATIONAL CURRENCIES. THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 00670 301546Z

CONVERSION FACTORS ARE BASED ON EITHER THE VALUE OF THE CURRENCY AS ESTABLISHED WITH THE IMF OR CENTRAL RATES. THE EC WILL ALSO SUPPLY US WITH AN EXAMPLE SHOWING THE EC CALCULATION FOR A GIVEN AVE AND EXPLAINING CONVERSION FACTORS. IN ITEMS WHERE THERE WERE NO EC IMPORTS IN 1972, NO AVE CALCULATION IS SHOWN IN THE TRIF.

AVE'S FOR 1972 (AND EVENTUALLY 1973) WILL BE BASED

ON IMPORTS INTO THE SIX ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE
COMMUNITY FROM OUTSIDE THE NINE. 1974 AVE'S WILL BE
BASED ON IMPORTS INTO THE NINE.

D. DUTY ON SHIP REPAIRS. UNITED STATES EXPLAINED
US INTERPRETATION (REFTEL) THAT ANY CONCESSION
NEGOTIATED UNDER THIS ITEM WOULD NEED TO BE SUBMITTED
TO THE CONGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 102 OF THE
TRADE ACT. WE STRESSED THAT THIS WAS A LEGAL OPINION
AND THAT NO US DECISION HAD BEEN MADE CONCERNING
WHETHER OR NOT THE UNITED STATES COULD RESPOND TO A
REQUEST FOR A CONCESSION ON THIS ITEM. DUGIMONT SAID
HE WANTED TO BE SURE THAT NO STATUTORY REQUIREMENT
FORBADE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ITEM, ADDING THAT THE
EC REMAINED VERY INTERESTED IN THE DUTY ON THIS ITEM
AND THAT IT WOULD FORMULATE A REQUEST FOR A CONCES-
SION IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. WHETHER
SUCH A REQUEST WOULD BE MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE DUGIMONT CONSIDERS THE
ITEM A TARIFF, OR IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NTM GROUP,
WILL BE DECIDED AT SOME LATER DATE.

E. GATT TARIFF STUDY. WE AGREED WITH EC THAT
GATT TARIFF STUDY SHOULD BE UPDATED ON AN ANNUAL
BASIS WITHOUT NEEDING TO MAKE A GROUP DECISION EACH
TIME. DUGIMONT STATED THAT EC IS PREPARING A 1974
TAPE TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN A MONTH AND WILL THEN
WORK BACKWARD TO 1973. WE AGREED THAT SUBJECT OF
UPDATING SHOULD BE RAISED AT NEXT TARIFFS GROUP
MEETING. CULBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, DATA, TARIFF SCHEDULES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MTNGE00670
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760037-0141
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976015/aaaaadqe.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 14197
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC/US TECHNICAL DISCUSSION ON TARIFFS
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006